DOVER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1972

J.A. BYRNE, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., M.F.C.M.

Medical Officer of Health

Health Department,
86 Maison Dieu Road,
Dover.

DOVER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

HEALTH COMMITTEE

To 1st June, 1972

Chairman

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
(Councillor R.G. Lock)

Members

Alderman M. Grinsted
Councillor D.F. Clayton
Councillor E.J. Hadley
Councillor R.C. Longman
Councillor H.E. Morrison
Councillor J.J. Watson
Alderman W.T. Muge
Councillor R.L. Eckhoff
Councillor M. Hart
Councillor P.T. Mee
Councillor W. Ridgway

From 1st June, 1972

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
(Councillor K.E. Goodfellow)

Chairman

Councillor C.W. Beal

Members

Alderman G.E. Gasken
Alderman W.T. Muge
Councillor D.F. Clayton
Councillor R.G. Longman
Councillor H.E. Morrison
Councillor J.P. Thompson
Alderman M. Grinsted
Councillor J.E.C. Bushell
Councillor M. Hart
Councillor P.T. Mee
Councillor R.S. Newman
Councillor J.J. Watson

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Health Department,
86 Maison Dieu Road,
Dover.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Dover acting as the Port Health Authority of the Port of Dover:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Department in 1972 in the execution of the functions which are the responsibilities of this Port Health Authority.

Firstly though I must refer to the great loss to the nursing services resulting from the tragic death of Nurse Brothwell early in the current year: she was the longest serving of the permanent staff and her presence will be sadly missed.

Port activities continued to expand - the growth being reflected in the increased number and tonnage of ships arriving, the number of passengers and, so far as the Department is concerned, the amounts of foodstuffs presented for examination.

The administration of the Diseases of Animals Act functions within the dock area remained principally with the Dover Harbour Board Police and experience showed how impracticable it would have been for the Port Health Inspector to have taken over responsibility for this important but nevertheless time consuming activity.

Surveillance measures necessitated by a widespread outbreak of smallpox in Yugoslavia were operated from the period 22nd March to 10th May, while during the cholera incidents in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia in the latter half of the year all travellers from the infected areas arriving within the incubation period were handed the specially printed advisory leaflet issued by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Once again I have pleasure in recording my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance I received from the officers and staffs of all the Departments and agencies concerned in the operation of the Port, while to the staff of the Health Department my thanks are due for their willing and able support.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

J.A. BYRNE

Medical Officer of Health

2nd March, 1973.

SECTION I - STAFF - TABLE A

The following changes occurred during the year:-

PORT AND ALIENS NURSE:

Mrs. W.M. Betts, S.E.N. - appointed with effect from 1st December,1972

PORT HEALTH AND FOOD INSPECTORS:

Mr. P.A. Barton, Dip. P.H.I.E.B. - resigned with effect from 9th April,1972

Mr. R.J. Cork, Dip. P.H.I.E.B. - resigned with effect from 11th June,1972

Mr. A.J. Longley, Dip. P.H.I.E.B. - resigned with effect from 30th June,1972

Mr. A. Hargreaves, Dip. P.H.I.E.B. - appointed with effect from 1st June,1972

Mr. R.A. Simpson, Dip. P.H.I.E.B. - appointed with effect from 19th June,1972

Mr. D.M. Thew, Dip. P.H.I.E.B. - appointed with effect from 12th June, 1972

SECTION II - AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR - TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Public Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports	Not yet	available	* 6	125	21
Coast-wise	from National Ports Council		-	-	-
Total	‡13,474	16,457,130	6	125	21

*Excluding vessels from cross-channel ports

2570 Hovercraft arrivals were also recorded

‡ Information by courtesy of Dover Harbour Board.

SECTION III - CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR - TABLE C

PASSENGER TRAFFIC	Number of Passengers INWARDS 2,709,311 Number of Passengers OUTWARDS 2,764,001
CARGO TRAFFIC	Principal IMPORTS General merchandise, wines, foodstuffs, coal and timber. Principal EXPORTS Cars and general merchandise.
PRINCIPAL PORTS FROM which Ships Arrive.	North African; European, Iberian; Scandinavian and Baltic.

SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

NO CHANGE

SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY

There was no change in the general arrangements pertaining to the water supply for the district and for shipping.

Samples of water were taken from two vessels following complaints of taste but laboratory investigations had negative results.

SECTION VI - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS. 1970

Regulation 18: Restriction on Boarding and Leaving Ships:

By agreement with the Deputy Collector of H.M. Customs and Excise the requirement that free pratique must be granted before any person may leave or board a ship was waived during the year in respect of the cross-channel vessels operating between Dover and the following foreign ports - Boulogne, Calais, Dunkirk, Ostend and Zeebrugge - subject to strict adherence on the part of service operators to the following condition:-

"the master of an incoming vessel must be held responsible for advising the Port Medical Officer by radio message as soon as he becomes aware that he has on board his vessel any person suffering from an infectious, or suspected infectious disease, or there are on board before arrival any other similar circumstances requiring the attendance of the medical officer. Any message will be immediately telephoned to the duty medical officer or nurse and to the appropriate Customs Boarding Officer (Eastern Docks Dover 2666: Western Docks Dover 2672) and in this event of course, the provisions of Regulation 18 still effectively apply".

OTHERWISE - NO CHANGE

SECTION VII - SMALLPOX

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district:

The River Hospitals,
(Long Reach)
DARTFORD
Kent

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews:

Ambulance of Canterbury City Council available on request.

Special ambulance crew provided by the same authority.

3. Name of smallpox consultant available:

Medical Officer,
The River Hospitals,
(Long Reach)
DARTFORD
Kent

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis for smallpox:

Central Public Health Laboratory,
Colindale Avenue,
Colindale,
LONDON, N.W.9

SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including inpatient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

A Special Clinic with a Doctor in attendance is held at Buckland Hospital on Tuesday and Thursday of each week 9.30 - 10.30 a.m. Outside Clinic hours patients are referred to the Out-patients' Department, where routine treatment is available.

Leaflets publicising these facilities are available for distribution.

SECTION IX - CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS, 1971

TABLE D

CATEGORY:	DISEASE:	Number of cases During the Year		Number of Ships Concerned
		Passenger	Crew	
Cases Landed from Ships from Foreign Ports	Chicken Pox	2 (1)	1	3
	Suspected Food Poisoning	4 (2)	-	3
	P.U.O.	1 (1)	-	1
	Infective Jaundice	4 (4)	-	4
	Dysentery	1 (1)	-	1
	Scabies	2	-	1
	Acute Gastro-enteritis	7 (7)	-	2
	Malaria	-	2 (2)	2
	Mumps	1	-	1
	Septic Throat	1	-	1
	Scarlet Fever	1	-	1
	Diarrhoea	-	1 (1)	1
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	-	-	-	-
Cases landed from other ships	-	-	-	-

Twenty of the patients (as indicated by the figures in parentheses) were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

One of the patients admitted to hospital as suffering from gastro-enteritis was emaciated and subsequently died: on post-mortem the death was certified as entero-colitis due to staphylococcal septicaemia.

SECTION X - OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

Two cases of malaria were reported during the year.

SECTION XI - MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No measures were necessary during 1972.

In the event of finding plague-infected rats, vessels would be boomed off and fumigation of all compartments carried out.

SECTION XII - MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats:

Trade of port consists chiefly of cross-channel traffic, vessels of which are subjected to half-yearly routine inspections in connection with the issue of the necessary certificates under Regulation 19 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations 1970.

Additionally, any evidence of the presence of rodents on board occurring in the interval would be immediately reported by the British Railways Authority.

Other vessels entering the port are subjected to routine inspection by the Port Health Inspectors.

Port of Dover approved and designated for the issue of both Deratting and Deratting Exemption Certificates under Regulation 19 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1970.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year:

Although no action was necessary during 1972 any rats found on ships would be sent for necessary examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commerical contractor, the name of the contractor:

Deratting of ships would if found to be necessary be carried out by specialist firm using hydrogen cyanide gas under direction of Port Health Inspectors; in view of infrequency of need for this operation no specialist firm is retained under contract.

Minor infestations infectious dealt with by Local Authority's staff by routine poisoning methods.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships:

No active measures required during 1972. Ships operating from the port effectively maintained.

TABLE E

RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Category:	Number:
Black rats	NIL RETURN
Brown Rats	
Species not known	
Sent for examination	
Infected with plague	

One vessel, a yacht of 90 tons, was directed to Dover as the nearest Designated Approved Port for necessary deratting measures. Inspection revealed minor rodent infestation and after treatment by poison the necessary Certificate was issued.

Apart from localised and sporadic minor brown rat infestations, principally in the Eastern Docks, the Port area was reported to be comparatively rat-free.

TABLE F

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates	Total Certificates issued
After fumigation with H.C.N.	Other fumigant (State method)	After trapping	After poisoning	Total		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
-	-	-	1	1	46	47

SECTION XIII - INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

Nature and number of Inspections (including re-inspections)	Notices Served		Result of Serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
BRITISH VESSELS 50	-	-	-
FOREIGN VESSELS 78	-	-	-
TOTAL 128	-	-	-

No major nuisances were reported during the year and, apart from measures to treat minor infestations (cockroaches etc.) and investigations into complaints of excessive offensive odour from a ship's sewage disposal plant, no action was necessary; in the latter instance the fault was traced to the final effluent pump.

SECTION XIV

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 and 1948:

There are no shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority.

SECTION XV

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS AND COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRANTS

1. List of Medical Inspectors holding Warrants of Appointment at 31st December, 1972:

Medical Officer of Health (Dr. J.A. Byrne)
Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Dr. J.Ll.T. Graham)
Dr. W. Allen
Dr. G.L. Brocklehurst
* Dr. J. Brown
* Dr. P.H. Garrard
Dr. W. Irvine
Dr. E.T. Manley
* Dr. P. Ronchetti
* Dr. A.K. Thomas

* since withdrawn from panel

2. List of other staff engaged on this work as at 31st December 1972:

Aliens' Nurses:-	Mrs. A.L. Brothwell, S.R.N. Mrs. J. Burgess, S.E.N. Mrs. F.M. Lamoon, S.E.N. Mrs. B. Slater, S.R.N. Mrs. W.M. Betts, S.E.N. (we.f. 1st Dec. 1972)
Sessional Relief Nurses:-	* Mrs. H.F. Kelt, S.E.N. Miss L.A. Wells, S.E.N.

* since withdrawn from panel

3. Organisation of Work:

To ensure full cover of all incoming services at the Eastern Docks nursing attendance over the twenty-four hour period is now maintained throughout the year and necessitated the appointment of a fifth nurse to the permanent staff. The nursing staff at the Eastern Docks are now also supplied with equipment connecting them to the Dover Harbour Board Police communications system and immediate contact with the duty nurse is now possible in emergency.

OTHERWISE NO CHANGE

4. Nature and Amount of Aliens Traffic:

Number of aliens arriving at the Port and of those seen by the Medical Inspector:-

Year:	Total Aliens:	Medically Examined:	Reports Issued:
1970	958,666	5,821	47
1971	1,014,434	4,018	31
1972	1,042,567	2,167	45

Categories in which aliens were examined:

1. Holding Ministry of Labour Permits	1,466
2. Intending to make their home in the United Kingdom ...	607
3. Visitors	89
4. Business Visitors	-
5. Returning Residents	5
6. Aliens in transit	-
7. Other	-
Total	2,167

39 The certificates issued to the Immigration Officer numbered 45,
49 of the aliens concerned being refused permission to land.

TABLE I - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

	Total	Number subjected to detailed examination by the Medical Inspector	Certificates Issued			
			Unsound Mind or Mentally defective	Undesirable for medical reasons	Inability to support and/ or likely to require medical treatment	Conditionally landed for further medical examination
			(A)	(B) 1	(B) 2	(C)
(a) Total number of Aliens landed at the Port	1,040,826	2,128	1	-	5	-
(b) Aliens refused permission to land by Immigration Officer	1,741	39	17	8	14	-
Total Aliens arriving	1,042,567	2,167	18	8	19	-

Number of Vessels attended by the Medical Inspector:- 1,234

(Marine Station - 1108
(Ferry Dock - 20
(Eastern Docks - 106

TABLE 2 - MONTHLY FIGURES OF ALIENS MEDICALLY EXAMINED

Month	Marine Station:	Ferry Dock:	Eastern Docks	Total
January	187	28	44	259
February	79	11	14	104
March	104	22	29	155
April	206	33	41	280
May	154	30	35	219
June	102	24	46	172
July	120	26	37	183
August	123	25	28	176
September	209	21	45	275
October	106	23	20	149
November	91	16	17	124
December	40	11	20	71
TOTAL	1521	270	376	2167

5. Nature and amount of Commonwealth Traffic:

(a)

	Arriving Commonwealth Citizens subject to Control	Medically Examined:	Number landed Conditionally	Reports Issued:
1970	105,439	327	NIL	3
1971	104,222	173	NIL	3
1972	112,932	211	NIL	3

(b) Particulars of Reports issued:

Nature of Report	No. of Reports	Refused Entry
A. Suffering from mental disorder	1	-
B. (1) Undesirable for medical reasons	-	-
B. (2) Likely to require major medical treatment	2	-

5.(c) Monthly Figures of Immigrants Medically Examined:

Month	Marine Station	Ferry Dock:	Eastern Docks	
January	3	1	1	
February	10	-	1	
March	5	-	-	
April	2	-	11	
May	14	1	5	
June	16	1	8	
July	-	-	10	
August	2	49	-	
September	17	-	-	
October	5	-	1	
November	37	-	-	
December	10	-	1	
TOTAL	121	52	38	= 211

6. Accommodation for Medical Inspection and Examination:

NO CHANGE

SECTION XVI - MISCELLANEOUS

(Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died from infectious disease)

NO CHANGE

SECTION XVII - FOOD INSPECTION

(1) Action taken under the Imported Food Regulations, 1968, and other appropriate statutory instruments. 387,944 tons 0 cwt. of various foodstuffs were recorded as having entered through the port during the year.

Area of Origin	Article and weight (tons. cwt.) of foodstuffs inspected						
	Fruit and Vegetables *	Meat *	Fish *	Dairy Produce Fats Etc.	Confectionery	Miscellaneous	TOTAL
Western Europe	191,845 - 10	29,238 - 14	6,262 - 2	15,990 - 13	819 - 19	3,130 - 4	247,287 - 2
Eastern Europe	10,481 - 8	13,153 - 14	-	15,497 - 0	237 - 12	16 - 19	39,386 - 13
Mediterranean	69,484 - 1	2 2 - 16	217 - 11	102 - 13	7 - 6	98 - 12	69,912 - 19
Africa	16,636 - 12	211 - 14	57 - 15	221 - 5	-	168 - 0	17,295 - 6
Americas	8,196 - 8	441 - 6	79 - 15	1,247 - 0	-	-	9,964 - 9
Australasia	21 - 0	703 - 10	229 - 2	-	-	127 - 5	1,080 - 17
Greenland	-	-	26 - 0	-	-	-	26 - 0
TOTALS	299,367 - 2	44,024 - 16	6,887 - 14	33,058 - 11	1,064 - 17	3,541 - 0	387,944 - 0

* Canned foods included

The following imported foodstuffs were condemned during the year and disposed of under the supervision of the Department's Inspectors.

Country of Origin	Tons.	Cwt.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	
Spain	68	10	2	11	Fruit
	1	0	2	19	Canned Tomatoes
	-	14	0	1	Tomatoes
	-	-	2	10	Orange Juice
	-	2	1	0	Canned Fruit
Cyprus	21	9	1	0	Carrots
		4	0	2	Grapes
Malta	13	0	3	7	Onions
Egypt	5	0	0	0	Oranges
United States of America	4	14	3	0	Onions
	-	-	-	10	Meat
Turkey	2	3	0	24	Peaches
	-	11	0	8	Grapes
	-	10	1	8	Melons
Ecuador	2	2	3	12	Bananas
Israel	-	11	3	7	Tomato Juice
	1	3	1	19	Capsicums
Canada	-	11	2	17	Chinese Foodstuffs
France	-	2	1	0	Pears
	-	-	2	14	Meat
Argentine	-	1	3	14	Meat
Norway	-	-	-	12	Meat
TOTAL	122	15	1	27	

The Imported Food Regulations, 1968:

There was no improvement in the facilities at the Western Docks for the inspection of imported foodstuffs and following a further incident involving a consignment of fresh beef landed in a road vehicle off the Dunkirk Ferry, strong representations were made to the Railway Authorities to ensure that all imported meat traffic was routed through the Eastern Docks.

(a) Regulations 12 and 13:

Comment was made in my last year's Report on the vigilance necessary to ensure the authenticity of Official Certificates accompanying meat and meat products. The necessity for this precaution was re-emphasised in 1972 when a consignment of 700 cartons (20 tons 12 cwt) of alleged French boneless beef arrived accompanied by Official Certificates bearing approved French establishment numbers; examination of the meat however revealed red stamp markings indicating that it was not of French origin. This serious breach of the Regulations was referred to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, particularly in view of the previous attempts to import in contravention of the Regulations. The Ministry's Inspectors, concerned also by the risk to animal health for meat from unapproved sources, carried out an independent examination, subsequently ordering re-exportation under Article 6 of The Importation of Carcases and Animal Products Order, 1972.

Similar action was necessary in respect of six subsequent consignments and also an odd lot of three cartons of Argentinian beef found in a consignment of French produce.

Such was the concern of the Ministry that as from 1st December, 1972, the import of fresh, chilled and frozen meat or offal was licensed only through certain ports selected because of the then existing meat trade through them.

In three other instances detention notices were served under the Official Certificate procedure; in two relating to scrap meat, the notices were withdrawn after referral to the Ministry.

The third instance involved a consignment of 720 cartons of French Boneless Beef but in spite of apparent irregularities in stamp marks on the meat, the Ministry's Inspector was not of the opinion that the consignment should be rejected under animal health legislation. However, because of other conditions found, e.g. dirty meat, excremental contamination and, in some cartons, unrecognisable cuts of meat, the consignment was rejected by the Port Health Authority Inspector.

(b) Sampling:

Samples submitted for examination numbered 94:

Chemical	62
Bacteriological	17
Bacteriological and Chemical	15

Remarks:-

Frogs' legs: Imported in 5lb. packs, bacteriological examination results sufficiently unsatisfactory to warrant fuller investigation of further consignments.

Canned Ham: High bacterial count in a sample tin necessitated further investigations with the co-operation of the importers and the receiving Health Authorities: sample reports indicated the absence of organisms of the salmonella group, staphylococcus aureus and clostridium welchii, also satisfactory bacterial standards.

Meat and vegetable croquettes: Noodle cakes: Rice cakes: Beef Sticks: These four items from one source of production were examined bacteriologically and chemically. Three had comparatively high bacteriological counts although staphylococci, clostridia and salmonella organisms were absent: all contained undeclared sodium nitrite. The results and details of consignment were forwarded to the receiving Health Authority for the necessary further investigation.